

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GOTEBO 00204 231022Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 MCT-01 ACDA-10 CU-06 DHA-02 /089 W

-----014704 231222Z /50

R 230900Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL GOTEBORG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0307

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS GOTEBO 0204

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, CZ, SW

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF WARSAW PACT INVASION
OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. APPROXIMATELY 400 PERSONS DEMONSTRATED IN GOTEBO ON
AUGUST 21, MARKING THE NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW PACT
INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE COMPRISED
FOR THE MOST PART OF YOUNG PERSONS, REPRESENTING THE YOUTH
ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CENTER AND LIBERAL PARTIES, AS WELL AS
VARIOUS FAR LEFT SPLINTER GROUPS, INCLUDING "RED YOUTH" AND THE
SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY (A MAOIST ORGANIZATION).

2. THE MAIN SPEAKER AT THE GOTEBO DEMONSTRATION WAS ROLF
BERGKVIST, REPRESENTING THE RADICAL MAGAZINE FOLKET I BILD
(KULTURFRONT). BERGKVIST LAUNCHED A STRONG ATTACK ON THE PRESENT
CZECH REGIME, WHICH HE SAID "RESTS ON RUSSIAN BAYONETS".
ACCORDING TO BERGKVIST, "THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA
ARE BEING DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHT TO EXERCISE THEIR
PROFESSIONS, SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HOLD THE 'RIGHT' VIEW...
NUMEROUS YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING SHUT OUT FROM THEIR STUDIES
BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN OR THEIR PARENTS' VIEWS. FREEDOM OF SPEECH
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IS SUPPRESSED, NO POLITICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL OR SCIENTIFIC VIEWS
THAT DIFFER IN THE LEAST FROM THE OFFICIAL LINE MAY BE
PUBLISHED." BERGKVIST POINTED OUT THAT THOSE CZECHS WHO HAD
PROTESTED AGAINST THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE CHARTER 77
MANIFESTO HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF "REPRISALS" BY THE CZECH
AUTHORITIES.

3. BERGKVIST CHARGED THAT BOTH THE AMERICAN AND SOVIET "IMPERIALISTS" ARE STRIVING FOR WORLD DOMINATION; BOTH COUNTRIES, HE CLAIMED, WANT TO DIVIDE THE GLOBE INTO SPHERES OF INFLUENCE. IN CONCLUSION, HE ASSERTED THAT "IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, SWEDEN, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER STATES, MUST DEMONSTRATE ITS SUPPORT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE".

4. FOLLOWING THE SPEECH, THE DEMONSTRATORS MARCHED TO THE SOVIET CONSULATE GENERAL, WHERE THEY LEFT A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR "DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE TO THE PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA" AND AN "END TO PERSECUTION OF THE SIGNERS OF CHARTER 77". THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS, AND THE DEMONSTRATORS DISPERSED PEACEFULLY.

OWENS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANNIVERSARY, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, INVASIONS, PARTY YOUTH WING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GOTEB000204
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770303-1347
Format: TEL
From: GOTEBORG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770834/aaaabcov.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b1016956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1520155
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMONSTRATION MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF WARSAW PACT INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA
TAGS: PINS, PINT, CZ, SW
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b1016956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009